Exemption of Commodities from Sales Tax

1279. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recently held State Chief Ministers and Finance Ministries Conference it has been decided to exempt twenty five commodities from sales tax;

(b) if so, the details of such commodities and the reasons for their being exempted from sales tax;

(c) what would be the estimated losses of revenue to States; and

(d) in what manner the Centre propose to compensate States for revenue losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Criteria for Fixation of Prices for disinvestment of Shares

1280. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the public sector undertakings which are proposed to be considered for disinvestment during the next one year;

(b) what are the criteria of fixing the price for disinvestment of the shares;

(c) whether there is any independent or statutory authority to fix the fair prices of the shares for disinvestment; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider establishing such an authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Disinvestment of a part of the Govt, shareholding in a number of Public Sector Undertakings Viz, VSNL, MTNL, GAIL, HTL, IPCL, BALCO, IOC, Modern Food Iildustries Ltd. have been proposed to be undertaken during the current fmancial year. Plan for disinvestment during the next year has not yet been formulated.

(b) and (c) The sale of the shares in the Govt, held Public Sector